

MD-CW2601

September 24, 2001

Corn Harvest Continues

Corn harvest was in full swing last week with only a brief interception of rain showers on Thursday. Precipitation ranged from 0.2 inches in Talbot County to 1.3 inches in Harford county. All counties remain at below normal amounts of rainfall for September so far. Departures from normal for the month to date range from .8 inches below average in Queen Anne’s and Harford Counties to 2.4 inches below average in Charles County. Last week was dry with the exception of Thursday, allowing farmers an average of 5.8 **days suitable for fieldwork**.

The dry weather was good for harvesting corn. Eighty percent of **corn for silage** harvest is complete, progressing 23 percent ahead of the previous week, 29 percent ahead of last year, and 16 percent ahead of the five year average. **Corn for grain** is 25 percent harvested, progressing 13 percent over the previous week, 9 percent ahead of last year, and 2 percent ahead of the five year average.

**Soybeans** are not ready to be harvested yet, but are progressing ahead of schedule and in mostly good condition. Twenty-three percent of the crop is **dropping leaves**, 4 percent ahead of last year, and 5 percent ahead of the five year average. Soybean conditions are rated 17 percent excellent, 50 percent good, 24 percent fair, 8 percent poor, and 1 percent very poor.

Topsoil and subsoil moisture continues to be mostly in adequate supply, although surpluses are reported as zero. Moisture levels have declined slightly due to the continued dry weather. **Topsoil moisture** is rated 53 percent adequate, 37 percent short, and 10 percent very short. **Subsoil moisture** is now 52 percent adequate, 31 percent short, and 17 percent very short.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 23, 2001 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1996-2000
Harvesting Progress:				
Apples	37	28	38	35
Corn, for grain	25	12	16	23
Corn, for silage	80	57	51	64
Snap Beans	98	88	94	94
Sorghum	11	- -	12	11
Tobacco	89	81	94	93
Tomatoes	97	93	97	98
Crop Progress:				
Corn, mature	79	62	64	63
Sorghum, turning color	66	59	70	69
Sorghum, mature	24	7	28	23
Soybeans, turning color	46	33	46	40
Soybeans, dropping leaves	23	8	19	18
Hay Harvested:				
Other hay, 3 <sup>rd</sup> cutting	90	88	83	81
Other hay, 4 <sup>th</sup> cutting	50	45	39	43
Alfalfa, 4 <sup>th</sup> cutting	78	74	54	58

CROP CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 23, 2001 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	4	13	25	41	17
Soybeans	1	8	24	50	17
Sorghum	0	0	0	100	0
Pasture	6	23	37	24	10

Carrie Louey  
Mathematical Statistician

Ray Garibay  
State Statistician